



With the financial support the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy



TRAINING COURSE ON THE USE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROCEDURES FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA

The African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) in collaboration with the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy (the Scuola) jointly organise a 'Training Course on the Use of International Human Rights Procedures for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Africa'.

Capacity building, knowledge and skills sharing and networking are crucial components of the work of both institutions. The African Centre has organised such courses for different stakeholders at various venues in Africa and the Scuola has been running flagship courses in various branches of law including human rights, international relations and conflict management, to name but a few.

The main objective of the training course is to build the capacity of representatives of human rights institutions (Government, National Human Rights Institutions and Non-State Actors, etc) with knowledge and skills to effectively use the International and Regional (African) Human Rights System in their work towards human rights promotion and protection on the continent.

At the end of the training course, participants might also have the opportunity participate in the NGOs Forum (Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights) as well as the public sessions of the African Commission to concretize what they have learnt. Opportunities to familiarise participants with the Human Rights Council will be explored.

This course is to enable participants to have first hand of both theoretical and practical knowledge of the proceedings of the African Commission as well as the international human rights system.

Duration: 5 days

Dates: 7-11 September, 2015

Venue: Banjul, The Gambia

Course Content and Methodology: The course will be conducted in English and would comprise general lectures and discussion, debates, case studies, etc on the following broad themes:

- The United Nations Human Rights System
- International Human Rights Law
- Status of Human Rights and Democracy in Africa
- The African Human Rights System (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights etc)
- The Role of NGOs in the International and Regional Human Rights System
- The Role of NHRI in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
- Civil Society engagement with UN mechanism (Universal Periodic Review, Special Procedures)
- Networking, Advocacy and Lobbying Strategies

Expected Outcomes: At the end of the course, participants would be:

- Familiar with the various African and international human rights instruments;
- Equipped with knowledge and skills in relation to both theoretical and practical aspects of the instruments;
- Equipped with information to engage with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (e.g. to apply for observer status, file complaints/cases, make statements before the African Commission, the UN etc)
- Opportuned to network with a wide range of civil society organisations on issues of common interest
- Equipped with increased knowledge in advocacy and lobbying strategies

Participants: a maximum of 25 participants will be accepted on a *'first come, first served'* basis.

Resource Persons: Resource Persons will be drawn from the both the Scuola and ACDHRS; Representatives from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and other partners in the wide pool of eminent defenders and activists who are experts in the field of democracy, rule of law and human rights globally and on the continent.

Fees: The cost of participation per applicant is ***\$450.00 (four hundred and fifty United States Dollars)***, to cover tuition fee, conference package (stationery, tea/coffee break, lunch, documentation, secretariat and miscellaneous administrative expenses).

Participants will be responsible for the cost of their travel, accommodation, sustenance (dinner), insurance and other personal miscellaneous expenses.

Certificate: A Certificate of Participation would be awarded to participants who successfully undertake the course.

Application: Interested applicants should apply by email only to: admin@acdhrs.org (attaching relevant documents) and must meet the following criteria:

- Aged between 25 and 40
- Be actively involved in human rights work in the continent
- Must be fluent in either English
- Prepare and submit in advance a report on the human rights situation in their respective countries (maximum 5 pages) upon selection
- Letter of motivation to be submitted with application
- Letter of support signed by Head of organisation/institution or designated representative (where applicable).
- Must submit abridged curriculum vitae (maximum one page)

Deadline for Applications is July 15, 2015. Admitted applicants will receive a confirmation of admittance by July 20, 2015 in order to allow them to finalise the Visa procedure (where applicable).

The Organisers

1. The Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (The Scuola) founded in 1987 is a public university with excellence in training and research, internationalization, interaction with the job market. The Scuola offers training and postgraduate courses in many subjects including Law, Political Science, Human Rights and Conflict Management and Information Engineering. It is a scientific community where the academic staff and researchers interact with students through a continuous exchange of cultural and intellectual ideas. For more information on the Scuola : www.sssup.it
2. The African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) is a Pan African and autonomous regional human rights organisation established in 1989 in Banjul, The Gambia. Since its establishment, it has been at the forefront in the promotion and protection of human rights on the continent. For more information on ACDHRS, please check : www.acdhrs.org